CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claim 36, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) Isolated pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiates to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, wherein said pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells ~~are not derived from embryonic tissue,~~ are not totipotent, can remain quiescent, are lineage uncommitted in the absence of a general or specific lineage commitment agent, are capable of self-regeneration prior to commitment to any particular tissue lineage (ectodermal, endodermal, or mesodermal) and then further proliferation once committed, can be manipulated to commit to multiple separate tissue lineages, are capable of incorporation into the existing tissue ~~do not spontaneously differentiate, remaining quiescent in serum-free medium and in the absence of an induction agent~~, and wherein the stem cells do not form tumors in an animal, genetically engineered to express a gene or protein of interest.

15. (currently amended) A method of producing genetically engineered pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells comprising the steps of:

(a) transfecting pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiate to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, wherein said pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells ~~are not derived from embryonic tissue,~~ are not totipotent, can remain quiescent, are lineage uncommitted in the absence of a general or specific lineage commitment agent, are capable of self-regeneration prior to commitment to any particular tissue lineage (ectodermal, endodermal, or mesodermal) and then further proliferation once committed, can be manipulated to commit to multiple separate tissue lineages, are capable of incorporation into the existing tissue ~~do not spontaneously differentiate, remaining quiescent in serum-free medium and in the absence of an induction agent~~, and wherein the stem cells do not form tumors in an animal, with a DNA construct comprising at least one of a marker gene or a gene of interest;

(b) selecting for expression of the marker gene or gene of interest in the pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells;

(c) culturing the stem cells selected in (b).

16. (Currently amended) Genetically engineered pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells produced by the method of claim 15.

17. (Previously presented) The stem cells of claim 16 which are human cells.

Claim 18 (canceled)
Claim 19 (canceled)
Claim 20 (canceled)
Claim 21 (canceled)
Claim 22 (canceled)
Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (canceled)
Claim 25 (canceled)
Claim 26 (canceled)
Claim 27 (canceled)
Claim 28 (canceled)
Claim 29 (canceled)
Claim 30 (canceled)
Claim 31 (canceled)
Claim 32 (canceled)

33. (Currently amended) Isolated pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiate to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, wherein said stem cells express stage specific embryonic antigen SSEA4, and CD10 cell surface markers, can remain quiescent, are lineage uncommitted in the absence of a general or specific lineage commitment agent, are capable of self-regeneration prior to commitment to any particular tissue lineage (ectodermal, endodermal, or mesodermal) and then further proliferation once committed, can be manipulated to commit to multiple separate tissue lineages, are capable of incorporation into the existing tissue, and do not form tumors in an animal, genetically engineered to express a gene or protein of interest.

34. (Currently amended) A method of producing genetically engineered pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells comprising the steps of:

(a) transfecting pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal human ~~animal~~ cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal, which differentiate to cells derived from all of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, wherein said stem cells express stage specific embryonic antigen SSEA4, and CD10 cell surface markers, can remain quiescent, are lineage uncommitted in the absence of a general or specific lineage

commitment agent, are capable of self-regeneration prior to commitment to any particular tissue lineage (ectodermal, endodermal, or mesodermal) and then further proliferation once committed, can be manipulated to commit to multiple separate tissue lineages, are capable of incorporation into the existing tissue, and do not form tumors in an animal, with a DNA construct comprising at least one of a marker gene or a gene of interest;

(b) selecting for expression of the marker gene or gene of interest in the pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells;

(c) culturing the stem cells selected in (b).

35. (Currently amended) Genetically engineered pluripotent ~~embryonic-like~~ stem cells produced by the method of claim 34.

36. (Canceled)